



Shell to announce potential location of \$2 billion ethane cracker
ACC SmartBrief to: Mary Hanley

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- [Shell to announce potential location of \\$2 billion ethane cracker](#)
- Shell Oil will reveal the proposed location of its \$2 billion ethane cracker in the natural gas-rich Marcellus Shale region by the end of the current quarter, and the company expects the facility to be operational in 2017. Other petrochemical producers, such as Dow Chemical, Chevron Phillips and LyondellBasell, are considering similar projects. "It makes good economic sense for gas producers and customers in the Marcellus to have a cracker in the region," said Shell spokeswoman Kelly op de Weegh. [MarketWatch](#) (3/5)

- [Learn more about the economics of shale gas and petrochemical investment](#)

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Policy Watch

- [Experts discuss path toward responsible shale-gas development](#)
- Energy experts discussed ways to improve the development of U.S. shale natural gas resources during the first day of the CERAWeek 2012 conference. Increasing disclosure of the ingredients in hydraulic fracturing fluids, avoiding fracking near major faults and reducing water consumption are all key steps, panelists said. "We think the mystery surrounding hydraulic fracturing has actually been exacerbated and people have been paranoid, really for no reason," said Mark Zoback, a Stanford University professor and member of the Department of Energy's shale natural gas advisory committee. [FuelFix.com](#) (3/5)

- **Energy summit panelists discuss natural gas drilling boom:** Technological breakthroughs in tapping the country's natural gas resources have made it necessary to review America's energy policy, according to industry and environmental experts at the CERAWeek energy conference. "The potential of the gas resource to supply the market for decades to come at a fairly moderate cost was way beyond what we had originally conceived and a sea change from what was generally perceived five or six years ago," said Andrew Slaughter, a business environment adviser for Shell Exploration & Production. [FuelFix.com](#) (3/5)

- [CNOOC eyes U.S. shale projects](#)
- CNOOC is looking to boost its presence in North American shale formations. "The U.S. has advanced shale oil and gas technology and rich resources. We are interested in U.S. shale projects," said Wang Yilin, the company's chairman.

Bloomberg (3/4)

- Pa. county is home to nearly all of the state's top shale-gas wells
- Eight of the 10 shale natural gas wells in Pennsylvania that were most productive during the second half of 2011 are located in Susquehanna County, according to data from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The most productive well in the state was Cabot Oil & Gas' King 2, which produced more than 3 billion cubic feet of natural gas during the six-month period. Star-Gazette (Elmira, N.Y.) (3/2)

- Other News
- EPA names 7 chemicals to be subjected to TSCA review this year
- Chemical Week (subscription required) (3/5)

- FDA to release BPA decision by end of March
- Forbes (3/5)

- **Get the facts about BPA**
- European chemical producers must submit SVHC notification by June
- Chemical Week (subscription required) (3/5)

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Research & Innovation

- Industrial gases sector posts significant growth in 2011
- The industrial gases sector, led by major producers such as Air Products and Chemicals, Linde, and Air Liquide, registered robust growth in 2011 as plant start-ups and new gas applications drove expansion in emerging markets. "Most companies achieved strong growth in 2011. Part of that was due to increased project activity, particularly in emerging geographies. The project pipeline is strong in China, India and the Mideast, as well as Eastern Europe," said John Raquet, managing director of Spiritus Consulting. Chemical Week (subscription required) (3/5)

- BASF acquires foam producer to strengthen PET foam offerings
- BASF will acquire B.C. Foam's PET unit to boost its high-performance PET portfolio. Under the deal, BASF will take control of production plants and extrusion technologies to manufacture high-density foams used for wind turbines. "[T]his acquisition will enable BASF to further strengthen its position as a leading foam provider," said Dr. Wolfgang Hapke, president of BASF's Performance Polymers unit. European Plastics News (U.K.) (3/6)

Styron seeks to boost use of postconsumer plastics

Executives at Styron, the former styrenics unit of Dow Chemical, are advocating for increased use of applications that will boost the reuse of postconsumer plastics. "We're all stewards of plastic as a product. We have an interest in the total sustainability of the plastics we provide," said Paul Moyer, vice president and general manager of plastics for the company.

PlasticsNews.com (3/5)

Other News

[Wacker Chemie to invest \\$52 million for capacity expansion at Chinese facility](#)

Chemical Week (subscription required) (3/5)

Demand for Rig Workers Is On the RiseThe labor market for quality rig workers is tightening. Learn how Oil & Gas companies are dealing with the shortage of qualified rig crews—including best practices for cross-training and retaining existing employees. Plus, find out what job attributes drive job satisfaction. **[Download your free copy now.](#)**

Leadership & Management

[How leaders can better reach out to younger workers](#)
Leaders shouldn't be afraid to engage young workers who have views that conflict with traditional thinking, says Mark Mueller-Eberstein, CEO of Adgetec and a professor at Rutgers University. Instead, leaders should look to leverage young workers' enthusiasm, without fear of making mistakes or looking less than perfect. "Transparency, authenticity and openness are key attributes the leaders of today and tomorrow need to embrace and model within their organization,"

Mueller-Eberstein says. [SmartBrief/SmartBlog on Leadership](#) (3/2)

[The problem with Warren Buffett's secretive successor pick](#)
Warren Buffett's decision to pick a successor as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway without publicly releasing the name could undermine his leadership, writes Diane Brady. The anonymity may disrupt team harmony send some searching for new jobs. Succession planning is important, Brady argues, but should be done by the board of directors when the time comes.

[Bloomberg Businessweek](#) (2/28)

Beyond Turbidity: *In Situ* Monitoring and Control of Complex Particle and Droplet Systems — This whitepaper explains the options available for real-time in-process monitoring and control of suspensions and emulsions and provides guidelines for selecting the right technology for the work being performed. **[Download the whitepaper.](#)**

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ACC News

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Men must live and create. Live to the point of tears."

--Albert Camus,
French author, journalist and philosopher

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